

Agency : FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Title : Creation of a Low Power Radio Service

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Attached Files :

Comment : Topic 1: Tell the FCC that a "non-local" station (WIMZ of Knoxville) is creating massive interference for our local WPVM-LP due to the unique contours of our mountainous terrain.
WPVM-LP gets massive interference from the Knoxville-based commercial station, WIMZ-FM, which also broadcasts on the 103.5 frequency.

Currently, the FCC makes decisions about LPFM interference using a "distance-separation" (DS) formula. By this measure, what works for Kansas should work in western North Carolina.

But radio signals travel differently in the mountains! In our case, the signal from WIMZ in Knoxville is "funneled" into the Asheville area by the French Broad River corridor. Terrain is the problem!

We need FCC permission to use "contour protection" (CP) instead of "distance separation" to deal with our signal problem. Contour protection takes terrain into account when solving interference problems. The FCC currently allows CP for full-power FM stations, commercial and non-commercial "but not for LPFM stations like WPVM.

You can mention the option of using "contour protection" if you like, but it's not necessary. We will file comments on behalf of the station that will cover such technical detail. All you need to do is let the FCC know that WPVM is getting "massive interference" from a "non-local" station!

Topic 2: Tell the FCC that LPFM stations, especially those in challenging mountainous terrain, should be permitted to own translators.

LPFM stations like WPVM are prohibited from owning translators, which commercial and NPR stations use to extend their signal to hard-to-reach areas. If WPVM were granted this same privilege, we could extend our signal to communities like Black Mountain, Hendersonville and Mars Hill.

Topic 3: Tell the FCC that you support its position on getting rid of the obsolete regulation of ☐third adjacent channel☐ spacing.

We could solve our signal problem if the FCC eliminated ☐third adjacent channel☐ spacing. This FCC regulation defines the spacing between station frequencies on the radio dial.

Commercial broadcasters, led by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), insist on ☐third adjacent channel☐ spacing. They want maximum protection for their commercial licenses ☐ and some of us believe they want to minimize competition from LPFM!

But the FCC's own studies show that today's technology makes third adjacent channel spacing unnecessary. Eliminating this outdated regulation would open up the FM spectrum for more LPFM stations ☐ and allow WPVM to avoid the interference from Knoxville's commercial rock station, WIMZ.

Topic 4: Tell the FCC that you support its efforts ☐to increase the number of LPFM stations on the air and strengthen the viability of those stations that are already operating. ☐ We need to let the FCC know they're doing something right!

FINALLY: In addition to commenting to the FCC, please sign our petition supporting the ☐Local Community Radio Act of 2005,☐ which would also help solve our signal problem!

If you would like to share your FCC comments with the WPVM community, simply cut and paste them into our comment folder. Thanks!

* WPVM is a broadcast service of the nonprofit Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN). On behalf of the MAIN staff, board of directors, and all our volunteers, thank you for supporting WPVM!